

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated September 21, 2005.

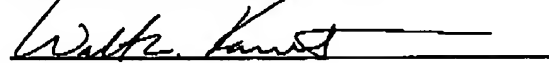
Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 2-7, 9-15, 17, 18 and 20-24 remained pending in the present application. Pursuant to the Office action, claims 2-7, 9-15 and 24 are allowed. Claims 17, 18 and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Huibers et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0109821 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Huibers et al.

Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution of the present application, and without acknowledging applicability of Huibers et al. as prior art, applicants have cancelled claims 17, 18 and 20-23 so as to place the application in allowable form.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



Walter W. Kamstein
Registration No. 35,565
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679
Attorney for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner P. Natnael, Group Art Unit 2614, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on December 20, 2005.



Christie A. Doolittle

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